

I am opposed to any reduction in the current rules limiting the number of stations owned by one company or person. If the airwaves do belong to the American public then ownership of the most influential medium that uses them should not be concentrated. Concentration of ownership will result in undue influence whether it be in political viewpoints, advertising availability and rates or selective coverage of important local and regional issues. The internet and cable TV will not replace broadcast television or even come near the level of influence that broadcast television has in the next thirty years. We would not have these rules if they had not been necessary. It doesn't matter whether it is railroads, newspapers, grocery markets or shoe shine stands, American free enterprise works because of competition. There is no reason for changing these rules as proposed that would in any way benefit the American public and once they are gone, we will never have the protection again. I understand that there is efficiency in conglomeration and I do not blame the large broadcasters for trying to accomplish this in their own interest, but that is exactly what it is; their interest. The more the ownership is separated the more diverse the service to the public. This is not a "gray" area. This is a cold hard fact.

Please do not do this.

I very much appreciate this opportunity to comment on this issue. I planned to attend the public hearing being held today in Durham, NC by Commissioner Copps, but my work schedule will not allow it.

Respectfully,  
Tom Hamptn